MOTIVATE MICHIGAN

#PASSMIGOODTIME

REPEAL
TRUTH-IN-SENTENCING

WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXT MONTH

Repeal TIS Laws Town Hall..... Saturday, March 28
Time: 1:00pm - 3:30pm
Location: University of Michigan, Educational Conference Center
Address: 1080 University Ave. Ann Arbor, MI 48109 Room 1840
Organizers: School of Social Work graduate students at U of M

Register for Town Hall online at https://forms.gle/HZXUdq4oRafxDLPNA
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Right2Redemption Ball Opening Remarks

January 25, 2019 l Black Dragons Bike Club

Ladies and gentlemen, friends and family, esteemed guests:
On behalf of the approximately 38,000 individuals who are currently incarcerated, and their extended family members which are estimated to be close to 1 million, I would like to take just a moment to personally thank each of you for your support. Without you, and I do mean each of you, this movement to correct an undeniable social injustice would not be taking place.

Unfortunately, involvement in our criminal justice system has become part of the American experience, impacting an astonishing number of citizens. Most of us either have personal experience or know someone with personal experience. This impact is a result of the unprecedented growth of the criminal justice system over the past 40 years.

I would ask you to consider this:
One out of every 38 Americans is either incarcerated or under some form of community supervision, such as parole or probation.
Right now there are currently 2.2 million Americans incarcerated, and about 4.5 million on parole or probation.
More than 2,000 people have been exonerated since 1989.
Over 5 million children have had a parent incarcerated at some point during their childhood.
Ninety-five percent of people who are incarcerated will be eligible to be released at some point.
More than 600,00 people across this country are released from jail or prison each year.

Breaking it down to the state level:
Michigan spend $2.2 Billion per year on corrections. That is approximately one-third of the State's entire budget.
Michigan's prison sentences are on average, twenty-seven months longer than the national average.
Although the federal government and forty-seven states currently offer some form of good time or earned time, Michigan does not.
Between 2006 and 2016, the crime rate in Michigan decreased by just over twenty-four percent. However, during that same timeframe, the average minimum prison sentence increased by more than thirty-four percent.

These were some of the issues that motivated me to draft the MPRCA - the reason you are all here for tonight. Another major reason was the State's unwillingness to provide avenues and opportunities for the incarcerated individuals to work toward the ultimate goal of rehabilitation.

Most people are probably aware of the fact that when a person is sentenced to prison, he or she is typically ordered to attend and complete certain programs before they can be paroled. But what

most people are not aware of is the fact that those incarcerated individuals are not usually eligible to participate in those programs until the last eighteen months of their sentence. That means that a person convicted of a violent crime, and sentenced to a prison term of ten years, cannot even begin to take the mandated courses such as Violence Prevention Program, Anger Management, and Thinking For A Change, until they have served approximately eight and half years of their sentence. How can anyone think that this is alright?

The passing of the MPRCA will incentive our incarcerated citizens to strive toward not only maintaining a positive institutional record, but to also push themselves into areas that they might not have otherwise been motivated to venture.

The rewards for seeking higher education, obtaining certificates for the completion of certain institutional programs, the willingness to enroll into other self-enrichment programs such as art, music, language and religion, and the willingness to get a job and keep it, will not only provide additional credit toward an early release, but it will better equip them for reintegration back into society.

Your dedication to helping pass the MPRCA will not only bring this state up to speed with what the federal government and forty-seven other states are already doing, but you will be giving those incarcerated individuals a small sense of control over their own futures.

Every person sitting in this room tonight is aware of one simple fact; if we want to repeal truth-in-sentencing, it is going to be up to us to do it. We have been given lip service by the legislators for far too long. How fitting is that we just celebrated the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr., the same man who said that "Justice too long delayed, is no justice at all." This is our time to seek justice for those whose voices have been silenced.

As I close, I would urge each of you to be willing to make this petition an active part of your daily life for the next four months. Keep a copy with you at all times, and be willing to talk about it to people that you think might not even agree with you. You may just find yourself completely surprised at who has been effected by this state's criminal justice system.

But please know that our work does not end with the collection of the signatures. We must be willing to continue to educate everyone we come into contact with, as it relates to the facts surrounding the MPRCA. We must be able to explain to them how the MPRCA will make the prisons safer for everyone involved, the prisoners, the staff, and the communities that the men and women will be returning to. We also need to educate them on the massive amount of tax dollars that could be reallocated to schools and other programs, to make sure that our youth of today, isn't our prison population of tomorrow. And finally, to wrap this entire process up, we need to get everyone to the ballot boxes in November. Without that, this will all be for nothing.

Again, I thank each and everyone of you from the bottom of my heart. I can only hope that one day you truly recognize the impact of what you are accomplishing.

God Bless!
Mike Thomas

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Mike Thomas, an incarcerated veteran at Saginaw Correctional Facility played a significant role in drafting MPRCA, he can be reached at mike074thomas@gmail.com

We need your help recruiting outside supporters into roles that can further expand and support this campaign. Inform your loved ones who have the flexibility of these ways to help.

WAYS TO SUPPORT MPRCA

MICHIGAN PRISONER REHABILITATION CREDIT ACT

The Good Time Campaign to Repeal Truth-in-Sentencing is pushing the petition to restore earned credits to all of Michigan's incarcerated citizens through the Michigan Prisoner Rehabilitation Credit Act (MPRCA). MPRCA has been proposed as an initiative through petition. Our campaign will be collecting signatures from now through May and we need help from people in our local area that are passionate about getting MPRCA passed. Below are ways YOU can help get MPRCA passed! You can volunteer in one of (or in multiple) roles depending on your individual capacity. The more people we have in these roles across the state, the more signatures that we will be able to collect faster!

1 EVENT CANVASER

Find and attend local events, arrive 30min prior to event start and set up MPRCA promo table. Keep promotional materials stocked with cards, newsletters, brochures, guidebooks and buttons to share with attendees. Answer questions and share MPRCA highlights as well as collect signatures from supporters

Commitment: Check in 2x/month

2 EVENT SCHEDULER

Add potential events across the state to "Canvassing Event List" spreadsheet. Post about event opportunities on facebook page. Recruit local individuals as event canvassers. At least two event canvassers are needed at each event. For events short on event canvassers, scheduler will fill in this position.

Commitment: Check in 1x/week

3 DISTRIBUTOR

Set up at least one time each week where supporters can meet in a public place to pick up sheets. Stock local businesses, organizational and church partners with sheets each week (initially provide each location with a drop off shi age box). Mail or drop off sheets to campaign coordinator at least once a week. The materials needed for distribution will be provided to you by the campaign upon request.

Commitment: Check in 1x/week

4 COUNTY POINT PERSON

Set up a time at least two times each week where supporters can meet in a public place to sign the petition. Provide the date, time and location to the statewide coordinator, update with any changes at least two weeks in advance. Keep stocked on promotional materials (cards, newsletters, brochures and guidebooks). Meet with individuals in your area to provide petitions, pick up petition and collect signatures.

Commitment: Check in 2x/month

5 CANVASSING TRAINING HOST

Invite MPRCA campaign leaders and training facilitators to hold a deep canvassing training at your school, work, college, church, library or other public institution. Please have tables and chairs available as well as food and beverages for training attendees. Trainings must be held over at least a 3 hr time period with breakout work sessions, QnA and practice rounds.

Commitment: notification at least 2 weeks in advance

6 CANVASSING TRAINING FACILITATOR

After some experience canvassing you may be interested in helping others learn how to tell their stories and connect with people while collecting signatures. As a facilitator you will be recruited to help support canvassing training in your local area. You will also have the ability to host your own trainings for your local community.

Commitment: Check in 2x/month

7 MAILING SUPPORT

Each month MPRCA mails out hundreds of newsletters to inside supporters in dozens of prisons, jails and detention centers across the midwest, predominantly in the state of Michigan. The more hands we have helping out the better. At this meeting we will also provide updates on the campaign. Here is where you can come to add individuals to the mailing list or pick up materials to share with your loved ones on the inside.

February Petition Pop Up Locations

Here are places & people to visit to sign the petition, drop off signed sheets and pick up new sheets. Share these contacts with your friends and family so that they can support MPRCA. Please help us find more businesses & organizations who are willing to be pop up locations where people can pick up and drop off sheets.

Wayne County (Detroit)
Art Gallery Detroit
18211 W McNichols
Detroit, MI 48219
Monday - Saturday 12:00p - 9:00p
Contact: Westside Manny
Instagram @artgallerydetroit

Oakland County (Pontiac)
Pontiac Library
60 E Pike St #2225
Pontiac, MI 48342
Saturdays from 2:00p - 5:00p
Contact - Michelle Stewart
Email: aw.196@yahoo.com
Call: 248-495-7228

Washtenaw County (Ann Arbor)
First Congregational Church
608 E William St,
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Monday - Friday 9:00a - 3:00p
Contact - Robbie or Darcy
Call: (734) 662-1679

Grand Traverse County (Traverse City)
Traverse Area District Library
610 Woodmere Ave, Traverse City, MI 49686
Call: 231-946-5555

Grand Traverse Democratic Party
309 E Front St, Traverse City, MI 49686
Call: 231-932-8500

Contact - Raeeda Cassavaugh
Email:
raeedacassavaugh@yahoo.com
Call: 231-499-9473

Macomb County (Mount Plymouth)
Contact - June Thacker, Petition Distributor
Email k1ngcassh@gmail.com
Call: 586-646-6057

Gennessee County (Flint)
Contact - Percy Glover, Petition Distributor
Email: percy.glover@outlook.com
Call: 810-210-4041

St. Clair County (Smith's Creek)
Contact - Andrea Firestone, Petition Distributor
Email:
loveme24flames@gmail.com
Call: 810-662-5585

Shiawassee County (Owosso)
Contact - Jessica Siminski, Petition Distributor
Email: Jlsimins@svsu.edu
Call: 989-721-1498

Monroe County (Monroe)
Contact - La'nae Monique
Email: ladylinn21@gmail.com
Call: (734) 790-7774

Lansing
Contact - Aracely Hernandez
Email:
ahernandez7443@gmail.com
Call: 517-862-7101

Allegan and Van Buren County (Kalamazoo)
Contact - Lori Powell
Email: loripowell777@gmail.com
Call: 269 270-4083

Independent Survey Questions

The success of this movement depends on your participation. We are collecting a series of responses to the following questions.

1. Would you experience a sentence reduction according to the MPRCA?
2. If so, using the guidelines below how many years would your sentence be reduced by?
a. During the first and second years of his or her sentence, 5 days for each month.
b. During the third and fourth years, 6 days for each month.
c. During the fifth and sixth years, 7 days for each month.
d. During the seventh, eighth, and ninth years, 9 days for each month.
e. During the tenth, eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth, and fourteenth years, 10 days for each month.
f. During the fifteenth, sixteenth, seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth years, 12 days for each month.
g. From and including the twentieth year, up to and including the period fixed for the expiration of the sentence, 15 days for each month.
h. Prisoners who were sentenced as adults for a crime committed at the age of 17 or younger must receive an additional 20% of their base credits earned at the 10th year of his or her sentence
i. Prisoners who are honorably discharged military veterans must receive an additional 10% of their base credits earned at the 5th year of his or her sentence
j. Prisoners who have earned a higher education degree or certification must receive an additional 10% of their base credits earned at the time of their degree completion
k. Prisoners who are employed must receive a sentence reduction as follows
i. During the first year 5 days for each month
ii. During the second consecutive year 6 days for each month
iii. During the third consecutive year 7 days for each month
iv. During the fourth consecutive year 8 days for each month
v. During the fifth consecutive year 9 days for each month
vi. During the sixth consecutive year 10 days for each month
vii. During the seventh consecutive year 11 days for each month
viii. During the eighth consecutive year 12 days for each month
ix. During the ninth consecutive year 13 days for each month
x. During the tenth consecutive year 14 days for each month
xi. From and including the eleventh consecutive year 15 days for each month
3. How would MPCRA have a positive impact on the remainder of your sentence? Do you think repealing TIS could have a positive impact on peoples behavior?
4. How are you personally impacted by MPCRA? Why is MPRCA passing significant for you, your family and your community? Released early how could that affect your family, friends and children, if any?
5. What do you plan to do if released early to secure your future in society?

Our goal is to collect around 4,000 responses in order to have a dependable sample size (10% of Michigan's state prison population). The responses to these questions will be used in order to determine a concrete estimate of how many people will be impacted by the change in law repealing TIS. In addition we will be able to determine how much of a decrease we can expect from the $2 Billion that Michigan currently spends on it Corrections Department budget. We ask that each of our inside coordinators collect at least 150 responses to this survey. Please send via mail or over the phone, do not send via jpay. For those with LWOP please cap each life sentence at 25 years prior to making calculatoins.

Responses can be sent anonymously or if respondents decide they can choose to include their PIN along with their responses.

Thank you for your participation.

These are the NATIONAL DEMANDS of the men and women in federal, immigration and state prisons:

1. Immediate improvements to the conditions of prisons and prison policies that recognize the humanity of imprisoned men and women.

2. An immediate end to prison slavery. All persons imprisoned in any place of detention under United States jurisdiction must be paid the prevailing wage in their state or territory for their labor.

3. Rescission of the Prison Litigation Reform Act, allowing imprisoned humans a proper channel to address grievances and violations of their rights.

4. Rescission of the Truth in Sentencing Act and the Sentencing Reform Act so that imprisoned humans have a possibility of rehabilitation and parole. No human shall be sentenced to death by incarceration or serve any sentence without the possibility of parole.

5. An immediate end to the racial overcharging, over-sentencing and parole denials of Black and brown humans. Black humans shall no longer be denied parole because the victim of the crime was white, which is a particular problem in Southern states.

6. An immediate end to racist gang enhancement laws targeting Black and Brown humans.

7. No denial of access to rehabilitation programs for imprisoned humans at their place of detention because of their label as a violent offender.

8. State prisons must be funded specifically to offer more rehabilitation services.

9. Reinstatement of Pell grant eligibility to prisoners in all US states and territories

10. Recognition of voting rights for all confined citizens serving prison sentences, pretrial detainees and so-called "ex-felons." Their votes must be counted. Representation is demanded. All voices count!